

ER-04611

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

19 May 1949


SUBJECT: Reproduction of Top Secret documents

1. At a meeting of the Assistant Directors this date, OSI showed to me a copy of a 184-page Top Secret document which the OCD Liaison Officer had obtained on 30-day loan from the Intelligence Division of the Army. The document is described by a covering note by the Secretaries to the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JIC 441/6 dated 26 April 1949).


2. The covering note states that 28 copies of the document have been received by JIC, and that 22 more are expected in the near future. There is no indication of the dissemination made by JIC, or the use to which the documents were put. None, in any event, was made available to CIA until OSI learned informally of its existence and requested OCD to obtain a copy.

3. OSI pointed out, in the meeting, that the document is of very great intelligence value and is needed by CIA for retention. OSI asked if OCD could reproduce it. One of the other Assistant Directors pointed out that it was questionable whether a Top Secret document could legally be reproduced.

4. I stated that I would take the responsibility of authorizing reproduction in the event that retention copies could not be obtained from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I asked the other Assistant Directors if they dissented from my opinion that the Congress intended CIA to have and to make effective use of all intelligence bearing upon the national security except that under the cognizance of the FBI, and that our first responsibility is to ensure that we do make effective and prompt use of available intelligence whether or not our doing so involves possible infraction of one or another generally accepted regulation. No Assistant Director dissented from this opinion. One, however, asked if I was attempting to make them my partners in crime. I replied that I was not - that the responsibility for such decisions was placed upon me as Assistant Director for Collection and Dissemination, that I did not shirk it, and that I was quite prepared to accept the consequences.


Assistant Director for
Collection & Dissemination

This memo shown to Adm Hillenkoetter. He said he'd sign it himself if I wanted him to.



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MEMO FOR THE RECORD: Project Vista

Lt. Cdr. Durand of OSI informed me this date that Project Vista was a research study prepared by CalTech at the request of the Secretary of Defense. That it was Top Secret, and contained an [] section. That copies had been disseminated about two weeks ago, and then recalled by the Army which took exception to a number of conclusions and statements in it.

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Lt. Cdr. Durand informed me that OSI had had a single negative photostat made of the copy which had been in its hands, in order that the Director of Central Intelligence and the AD/PC might have access to its content. CIA, then, will have a single negative photostat of the report in its files; and this photostat will be very tightly held by OSI, DCI's office, and AD/PC.

G-2 would probably not approve our having made a copy - if it knew we had done so - but the need for DCI, OSI and OPC to have access to the report's content was considered by OSI sufficiently great to justify making the copy.

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James M. Andrews

10 March 1952

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